

## MINUTES

### Interagency Air and Smoke Council

#### July 2002 Quarterly Meeting

Host & Facilitator: US Environmental Protection Agency

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Location: Placerville Best Western Hotel

Date: July 17 & 18, 2002

#### Annotated Agenda: Minutes of the Meeting:

#### Wednesday 17 July 1:00-5:00 PM

**Introductions** John Kennedy, EPA Reg 9/ All

**Title 17 Workgroup Updates** Bruce Oulrey, ARB

- ◆ Program status - 24 air districts have approved Title 17 programs with various stages of rule development. 11 programs still outstanding. (Contact Bruce for list)
- ◆ PFIRS - ARB says PFIRS will be Beta tested this Fall. ARB is creating web pages and is requesting help via the Title 17 SMP workgroup to develop web data and report output forms for the system and to help with beta testing. New Title 17 fields being added. It was mentioned that ag would be added to the system in phase 2. System design is supposed to allow for flexibility for adapting to different air district and SMP formats. It was also mentioned that PFIRS would eventually be linked to ARB's real-time Air Quality and Meteorological Information System (AQMIS) and eventually may become part of the MM5/Blue Sky program.
- ◆ Public Outreach Workgroup - The Smoke Management and Public Health Fact Sheet was approved by ARB and is ready for use. A draft Smoke Management and Wildland Controlled Burning Fact Sheet was given out for comment. To obtain a copy of either fact sheet, see ARB's smoke management program website at <http://www.arb.ca.gov>. A Health Effects of Smoke fact sheet is also in the works at ARB Research Division. Dannie-Marie Mitchell of ARB is planning smoke management training courses. Stay tuned for notices.
- ◆ Smoke Management Program Working Groups - **Alternatives to Burning** group has developed a biomass markets web page (sorry, address not provided). **Met Criteria** group is working on marginal burn day criteria. **Technical Tools** group is working on forecasting, modeling, and acreage allocation methodologies and procedures.

**Yosemite NP FMP/EIS** Kara Paintner, NPS

- ◆ Kara gave a comprehensive presentation on the Yosemite NP's Fire Management Plan Draft EIS which showed areas of the park that are vulnerable to wildfire and that recent wildfires are growing in size and devastation. The DEIS lays out the various options, including an aggressive Rx burn program and mechanical treatments, to address the hazardous fuels problem and to restore and maintain the park ecosystems. Consult the Yosemite NP web site for additional information. [Http://www.nps.gov/yos/planning/fire](http://www.nps.gov/yos/planning/fire).

**MM5 Consortium** Chris Fontana, USFS – Redding

- ◆ Chris provided an update on the high resolution MM5 met model to be used for smoke dispersion modeling. He also reported on the results of the May meeting he organized to form a consortium of agencies who are participating in supporting the MM5/Blue Sky project. A Board of Directors is being

formed with representatives from CARB, NV air and fire agencies, the PSW Fire Weather Lab in Riverside, county air districts and fire departments, and CWCG. Two subgroups will operate under the Board, a Technical Advisory Group and an Operational Advisory Group. Products will be web-based with maps, soundings, ventilation index, CALPUFF accessibility, fire danger indicators, and possibly other info (depends on development by consortium). Membership is still being solicited. For more info and access to RAWs data, see: [www.f.s.fed.us/r5/fire/north/fwx](http://www.f.s.fed.us/r5/fire/north/fwx) or [www.met.utah.edu/firewx](http://www.met.utah.edu/firewx). Or contact Chris.

#### **IASC Roundtable      Agency Updates**

- ☐ USFS. Suraj Ahuja gave notice about the annual Fire Ecology Conference to be held again this year in San Diego the week of Dec. 5. Call for papers is out. See Suraj for details.
- ☐ Nevada DEP. Chet Sergent reported that Nevada's voluntary, MOU-based smoke management program is working well. Member agencies contribute resources to NDEP to support a 1/3 FTE position at NDEP to administer the program. Program becomes mandatory (regulatory) if it fails.
- ☐ San Joaquin Valley APCD Evan Shipp and Jose Martinez. The District is revising its burning regulation to allow for more ongoing burns on a smaller scale. A number of subregions in the SJV are being formed and the District is revamping its forecasts to accommodate the smaller regions.
- ☐ NPS. Katy Warner reported that NPS is hosting researchers from CSU studying regional haze in the Sierras. Sue Hisari (formerly Forest Service Fuels Management) is now the new regional FMO at NPS and Tom Nichols is the FMO at Yosemite.
- ☐ EI Dorado AQMD (newly named). Brenda Douglas mentioned the District was (is?) advertising for the position of APCO. Check their website for details.
- ☐ Tuolumne Co. Marian Chambers reported that Gary Cones is the new FMO on the Stanislaus NF. Larry Kaplinger retired. She also talked about the Jim Flat Rx fire that turned into a 7200 acre wildfire last spring.
- ☐ CDF. Jeff Stephens advised the group that CDF's Interagency RX Fire Agreements with Federal agencies and the CA Dept of Parks and recreation are up for renewal.
- ☐ Great Basin Unified AQMD. *Jonathan, I don't have a note on your update. Would you like to send me something for this?*
- ☐ Placer Co. APCD. Ann Hobbs. Placer County

#### **Day 2 - Thursday 18 July**

#### **TRPA & Lake Tahoe Air Deposition Study (LTADS)**

- ◆ Jennifer Quashnick, TRPA The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) is collaborating on a Lake Tahoe Air Deposition Study with the ARB, Nevada DEP, Washoe County, the Lahontan Water Quality Control Board, UCD and UNR, Forest Service, EPA, and others. The purpose of the study is to determine the effects of air pollution deposition on Lake Tahoe and its effects on loss of water clarity in the lake, to provide data to TRPA to set new air quality thresholds, and to provide data for development of a water quality standard (TMDL) for the Lake. The study will delineate local vs transported emissions (from the Sacramento Valley and Bay Area) and will determine what controls are needed to reduce impacts. The study is expected to get under way this fall.
- ◆ **TRPA Smoke Estimation for Fuel Reduction** - Jerry Dion, TRPA
- ◆ Jerry discussed TRPA plans to look into smoke impacts to Lake Tahoe as an input to TMDL development (see LTADS above in Jennifer's presentation). Because Tahoe represents the most complicated urban interface in the Sierras, which requires an extensive fuel reduction program, TMDL development will be difficult because emissions from fuel reduction may be high in the years ahead. 80% of the land in the basin is publicly owned and land managers need to reduce hazardous fuel loadings for public safety reasons, and to restore lake ecosystems.

#### **SJV Burn Allocation Program/GIS      Evan Shipp**

- ◆ The District is developing a more comprehensive allocation system to equitably distribute Rx and ag burning to minimize smoke impacts. 90 allocation zones in the valley are being created along with an allocation methodology for burn decisions. The allocation system will utilize forecasted air quality and

localized meteorology (including wind conditions) for the zones and population exposure criteria. A call-in system and Internet interface are also being developed. The District expects to have the system in use by the next burn season. (Evan, this Fall or next year '03? )

**Case Study: "Long Burn"** Jennifer Boyd and Ann Hobbs (cancelled)

**FEJF / ESMP** John Kennedy, EPA

- ◆ John provided an on the Fire Emissions Joint Forum (FEJF) which is a part of the Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP). FEJF just released its recommended guidelines on Enhanced Smoke Management Programs that WRAP states will be requested to use in developing their state air plans and programs to address regional haze impacts in their Class 1 areas. The ESMP guidelines are derived from EPA's Interim Air Quality Policy on Wildland and Prescribed Burning and specifically address visibility impacts of smoke from both wildland and agricultural burning. Although a formal evaluation has not yet been done by CARB or EPA, California's Title 17 requirements are likely in conformance, and may exceed, the ESMP recommendations.

FEJF is also developing other products for states and land managers to use for their smoke management programs, including emission inventories of pollutants created by fire, alternatives to burning, emission reduction techniques for burn programs, and public education/outreach information. See: <http://www.wrapair.org/FEJF>.

**PM Health Impacts/Outreach/Monitoring** Suraj Ahuja, USFS - R5

- ◆ Filling for Jerry Gause, Suraj handed out a draft position description Jerry developed for a Smoke and Health Specialist he is recommending for the Forest Service. This position would answer to the Fire Safety Officer for monitoring air quality in a fire suppression effort (wildfire). The specialist would monitor daily weather and fire behavior forecasts and use portable monitoring instruments to measure particulate levels. The specialist would coordinate with the Information Officer on a fire and also OES and local civil authorities regarding any evacuations. IASC attendees were asked to review the PD and provide comments back to Jerry. (707)582-8954 or email at [ggausa@fs.fed.us](mailto:ggausa@fs.fed.us).
- ◆ A monitoring subgroup was formed under Trent Procter's leadership to look into developing a protocol for conducting real-time monitoring on fires. Other members include Suraj, Mac McDougall (ARB, Katy Warner (NPS), John Kennedy (EPA), and... (who did I miss?).

**Incident Command Overview** Sue Hisari, NPS Yosemite (cancelled)

**AQMIS Update** Rich Bradley, ARB

- ◆ ARB's "Air Quality and Meteorological Information System" (AQMIS) provides real-time air quality and met information. The system continues to improve and grow with more monitoring and met stations being added, dynamic graphing of AQ and met data, enhanced GIS, more web tables of AQ and met data, and will be able to connect PFIRS eventually. AQMIS can be accessed at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/airqualitytoday>.

**IASC Business and Open Forum** Steering Committee, All

- ◆ Discuss survey questions -
  1. Where to hold IASC meetings. The members agreed that meetings should occasionally be held at a national park or forest and include field trips and a visit to a Class 1 area. Members also felt 1 meeting/year should be held in southern CA.
  2. Potential IASC topics:
    - a. air monitoring, including equipment demonstrations (eg, EBAMS, DataRAM)
    - b. alternatives to burning, including emission reduction techniques, biomass, other
    - c. residential burning and fireplaces - ARB, SJV, Reno regulations

- d. public education & outreach materials needed!!! (Tuolumne County request)
- 3. Recommend speakers - no recommendations
- 4. Steering Committee
  - a. need "timely" minutes from IASC meetings (okay!)
  - b. need IASC web page to post agendas, minutes, presentations, membership, etc. (ARB is working on this)
  - c. annotate the agenda for the minutes to show the topics and speakers - *(please let us know at the next meeting or send me an email if you want to comment on this format; suggestions welcome)*.
- 5. IASC Charter changes - please see the attached charter for suggested changes (text also included below). We will discuss these as part of our annual business item at the October meeting. Highlights of the suggested changes include rotating Steering Committee members every 2 years, alternating half of the members on even years and the other half on odd years. Members at the July meeting decided a "member at large" should be on the committee to retain "IASC committee memory". Nominations are open and will be discussed at the October meeting.

**Next Meeting** Ann Hobbs, Placer County APCD hosting October 16 & 17, 2002 at Blodgett Demonstration Forest near Georgetown, food and overnight accommodations at Blodgett (Ann will send info)